(c) what are the details of such cases which took place in Delhi during the period mentioned above;

(d) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to curb the activities of criminals and save the girls and women from such unscrupulous persons;

(e) whether Government have considered and propose to bring a suitable legislation amending the relevant Acts for the protection of life, honour and dignity of women in the country, if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(f) by when such a comprehensive legislation is likely to be brought before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement showing category-wise atrocities against women including dowry deaths, rape etc. in the country (State/Union Territory-wise) during the years 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994 is attached. (See Appendix 172, Annexure No. 5]

(d) to (f) The registration investigation detection and prevention of crimes, including crimes against women, is the responsibility of the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. However, the Government of India have initiated a number of measures to check such crimes. The Dowry Prohibition Act (1961) was amended in 1984 and 1986 to make the law more stringent. The Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure (1973) and the Indian Evidence Act (1872) have been amended to deal effectively not only with dowry death cases but also with cases of cruelty to married women. Instructions/ guidelines have also been issued from time to time to the State Governments/ Union Territory Administratoins to effectively enforce legislation relating to crimes against women. Besides, the media is being used to project women in positive terms. Awarness-generation camps are being organised. Development of women and Children in Rural Areas (DWACRA) programme and female literacy programmes are some of the other steps being taken to improve the status of women.

Fire in Sadar Bazar

135. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 300 shops were gutted in Sadar Bazar, Delhi on 12th October, 1994; if so, the details of the incident; and

(b) the findings of the inquiry, if any, ordered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Delhi Fire Service have reported that 80 shops were gutted in a serious fire which broke out on 12th October, 1994 near Ahmed Ki Sarai, Gandhi Market, Sadar Bazar, Delhi. Shri Sanat Kaul, Managing Dilector & Chairman, Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation, New Delhi is conducting an enquiry into the incident.

Border Fencing

136. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by the Government for fencing up Indo-Bangla and Indo-Pak border;

(b) if so, the progress made so far; and

(c) the year by which the fencing work is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fencing for a length of 355 kms. on Indo-Bangladesh Border and 835 kms. on Indo-Pak Border has been erected so far